

Please amend claims 1-3 and 5-7 as follows:

Claim 1, line 1, change "Peptide" to -- A peptide--;

Claim 1, line 3, change "characterized in that" to -- wherein --;

Claim 1, line 4, change "centred" to -- centered --;

Claim 2, line 1, change "Peptide" to -- The peptide--; and,

change "characterized in" to -- wherein --;

Claim 2, line 2, delete "that it comprises";

after "motif" add -- comprises --; and,

after "Ser-Cit-His" add a comma -- , --;

Claim 3, line 1, change "Artificial" to -- An artificial --;

Claim 3, line 3, delete "characterized in that it";

Claim 3, line 4, change "comprises" to -- comprising --; and

delete "or consists of";

Claim 3, line 5, change "either of Claims 1 and 2" to -- Claim 1 --;

Claim 5, line 1, change "Antigenic" to -- An antigenic --;

Claim 5, line 3, delete "characterized in that it";

Claim 5, line 4, change "contains" to -- comprising --; and,

delete "any one of";

Claim 5, line 5, change "Claims" to -- Claim --; and,

delete the remainder of the line, "to 3 which is optionally labelled with
and/or";

Claim 5, line 6, delete the entire line except the period, "conjugated to a carrier molecule";

Claim 6, line 1, change "Method" to -- A method --;

Claim 6, line 2, delete "this";

Claim 6, line 3, delete "method being characterized in that it"; and,

change "comprises" to -- comprising --;

Claim 6, line 5, change "any one of Claims 1 to 3" to -- Claim 1 --;

Claim 6, line 7, change "the" to -- any --;

Claim 6, line 8, delete "possibly" ; and,

after "present" add -- in the biological sample --;

Claim 6, line 9, change "the" to -- any --;

Claim 6, line 10, delete "possibly" ;

Claim 7, line 1, change "Kit" to -- A kit --;

Claim 7, line 2, delete "characterized in";

Claim 7, line 3, change "that it comprises" to -- comprising --; and,

delete "any";

Claim 7, line 4, change "one of Claims 1 to 3" to -- Claim 1 --;

Claim 7, lines 7 and 8, delete in their entirety except the period, "and/or means for detecting said antigen/antibody complex".

Please add the following claims 8-12.

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8. The artificial antigen of Claim 3 wherein the antigen consists of at least one peptide comprising a tripeptide motif centered on a citrulline residue, which is specifically present on at least one of the citrullinated peptides derived from the sequences SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 5 or SEQ ID NO: 6.

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9. The antigenic composition of Claim 5 wherein the at least one antigen is labeled.
10. The antigenic composition of Claim 5 wherein the at least one antigen is conjugated to a carrier molecule.

11. The kit of Claim 7 further comprising means for detecting the antigen/antibody complex.

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12. A kit for detecting rheumatoid arthritis-specific autoantibodies in a biological sample, comprising at least one antigen according to Claim 1, as well as means for detecting the antigen/antibody complex.